

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20

EB-11 RSR-01 /106 W

----- 003938

R 081150 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6268

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS LOME 0919

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, TO, DM

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KERKOU VISITS TOGO

1. DAHOMEAN PRESIDENT KERKOU PAID FLYING SEVEN- HOUR VISIT TO LOME YESTERDAY (HIS FIRST SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE) FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM, PIERRE KOFFI; MINISTER OF JUSTICE BARTHELEMY OHOUENS; AND MINISTER OF LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE, AUGUSTIN HONVO. WHILE TWO PRESIDENTS HELD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, DAHOMEAN MINISTERS MET WITH THEIR TOGOLESE COUNTERPARTS. PRESS DESCRIBED IT AS " FRIENDLY VISIT," AND KERKOU HIMSELF DECLARED ON ARRIVAL THAT THERE WAS NO DISPUTED MATTERS BETWEEN DAHOMEY AND TOGO. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE AND HIS DELEGATION CAME TO MAKE ACQUAINTANCE OF TOGOLESE LEADERS, ESPECIALLY GENERAL EYADEMA, AND ALSO TO SPEAK OF PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST AND WAYS AND MEANS OF MAKING THEIR COOPERATION MORE EFFECTIVE.

2. AT CONCLUSION VISIT, JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS SIGNED, MAIN POINTS OF WHICH WERE:

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A. TWO CHIEFS OF STATE ADDRESSED PROBLEMS OF INTER- AFRICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND PROCEEDED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CURRENT GREAT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO ELIMINATE ALL IMPEDIMENTS WHICH MIGHT COMPROMISE FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES, NOTABLY BY FAVORING FREE CIRCULATION OF WORKERS AND MERCHANDISE. TO THIS END, THEY DECIDED TO REACTIVATE MIXED DAHOMEAN- TOGOLESE COMMISSION CREATED 17 MAY 1965 TO PERMIT COORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION OF THEIR POLICIES IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DOMAINS.

B. CONSCIOUS THAT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF AFRICA CAN ONLY BE VIABLE IN FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL OR SUB- REGIONAL GROUPINGS, THEY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT REALISTIC INITIATIVE OF NIGERIA AND TOGO TO PROMOTE A WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OPEN TO ALL BROTHER STATES OF THE SUB- REGION AND COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO SPARE NO EFFORT FOR ITS REALIZATION.

C. COMMUNIQUE WENT ON TO REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR UN, OAU, AND OCAM AND " ABOVE ALL, FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE ENTENTE, A REALISTIC AFRICAN ORGANIZATION." IT CONDEMNED APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH PERSISTS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF AFRICA AND PROMISED SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN STRUGGLE TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM FROM AFRICAN CONTINENT.

DICKINSON

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